

...ster...



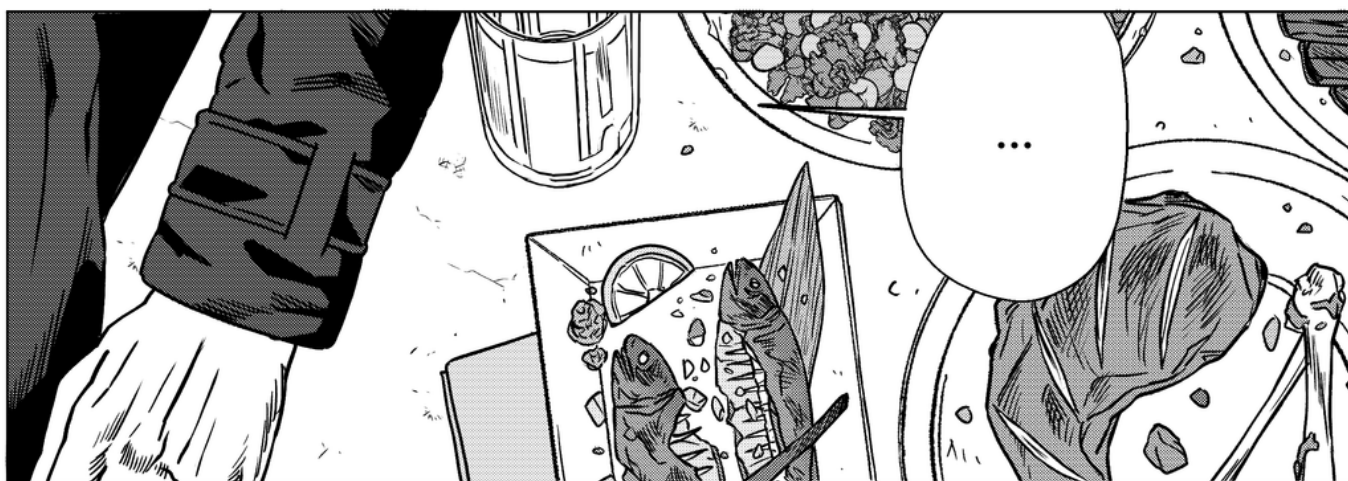
...Mister!





Are you
alright...?

You suddenly
went quiet.
It was a bit
worrying.



...



Hey boss~
You do recognize
that person, yeah?
You haven't
forgotten
who we are?

Don't be
so mean
to him...

I'm starting
to wonder if
you remember
how you got
here in the
first place.

Looks to me
like his mind's
just someplace
else, eh?



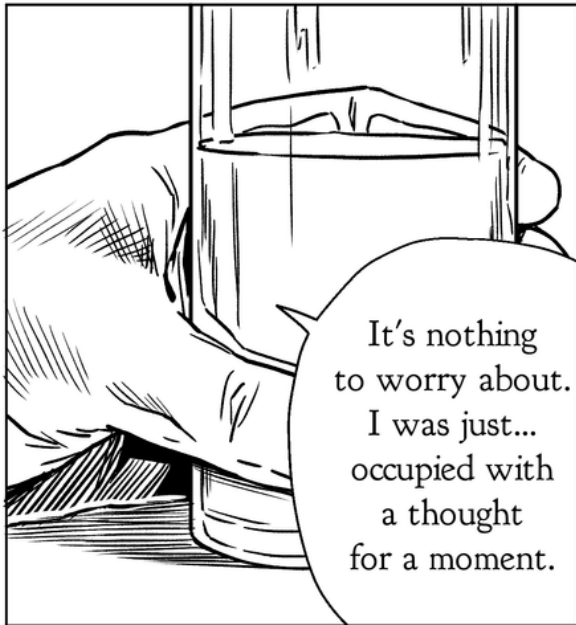
Whew



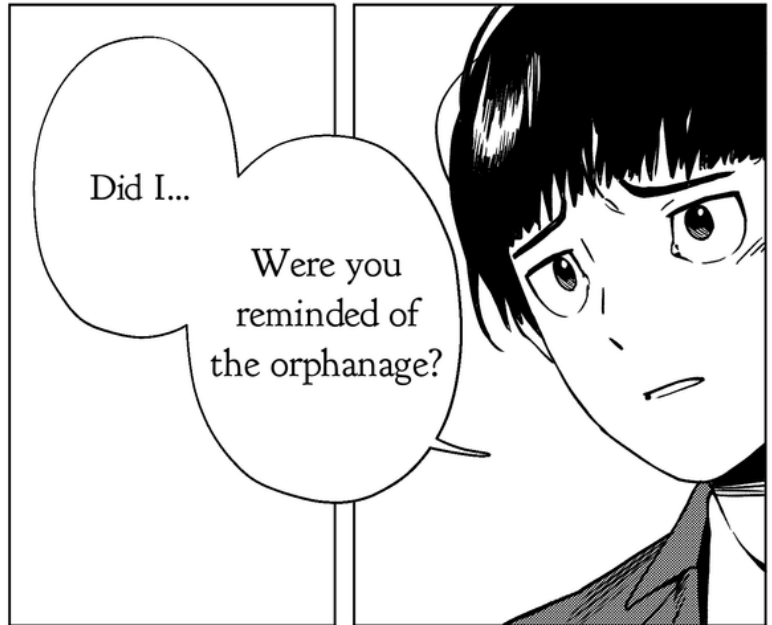
CHAT

You are
okay, right?

CHATTER



It's nothing
to worry about.
I was just...
occupied with
a thought
for a moment.



Did I...

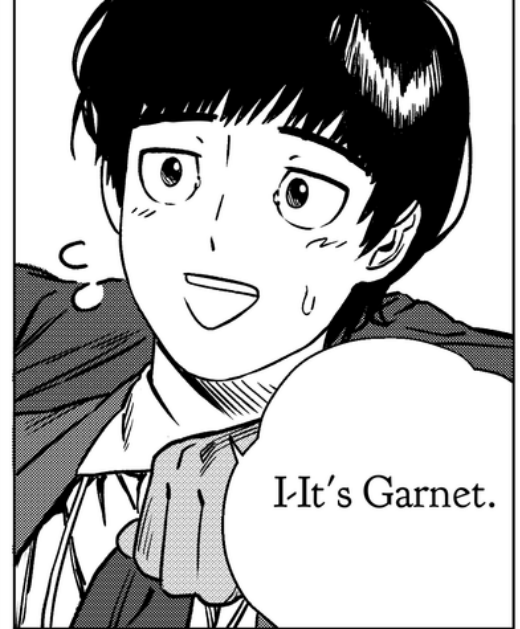
Were you
reminded of
the orphanage?



No.



So, uh,
what was your
name again,
buckaroo?

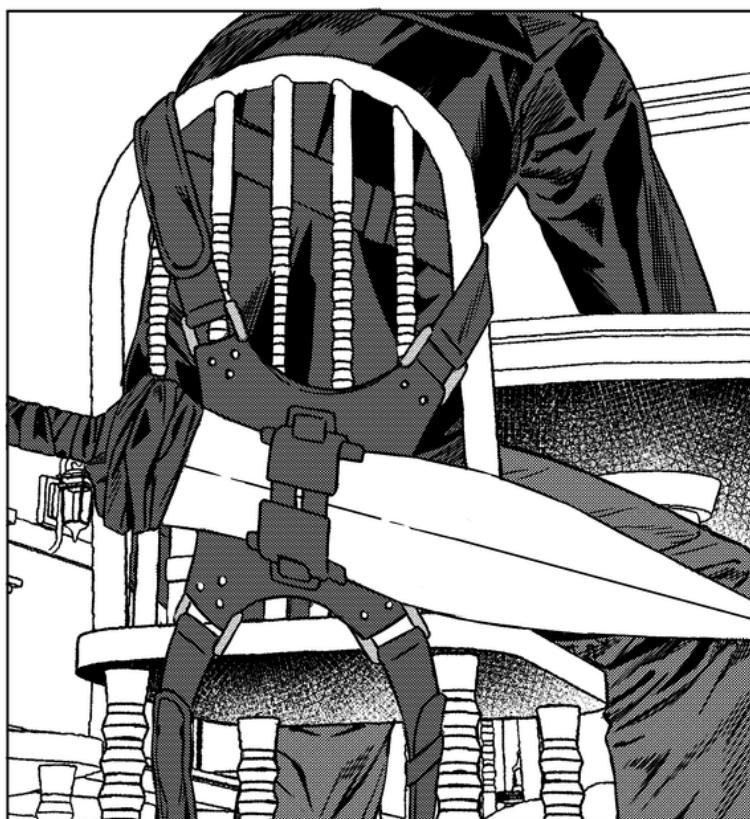
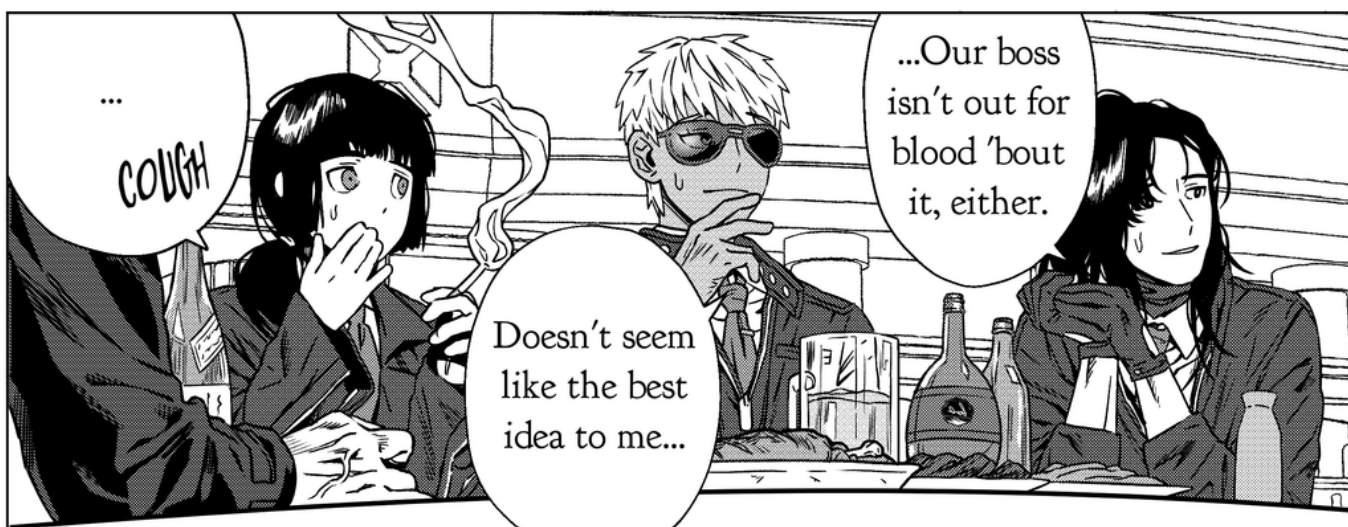


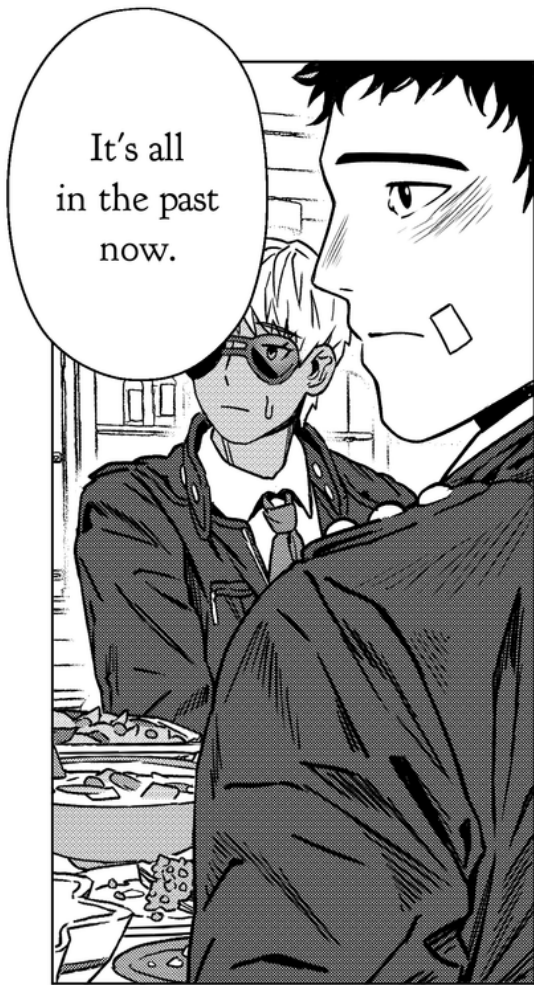


*Yep, all
grown up
now!*

*Look here,
I'm a full-
fledged Fixer
just like
you!*



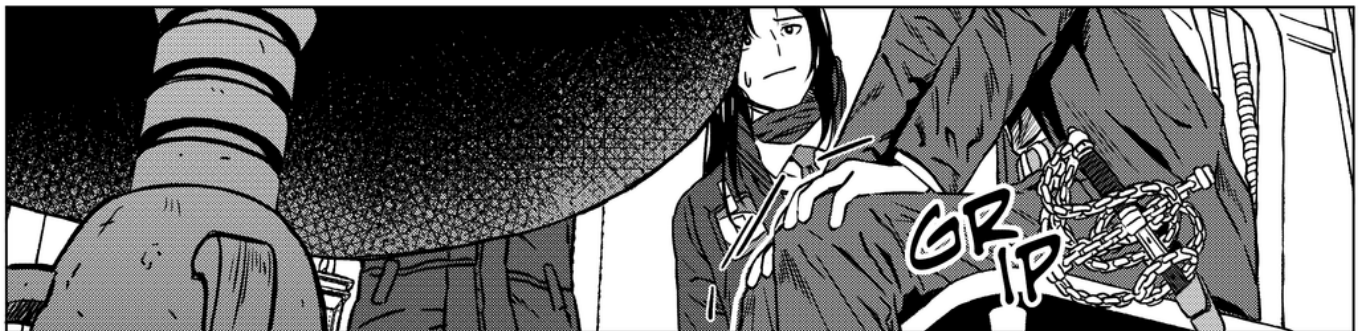
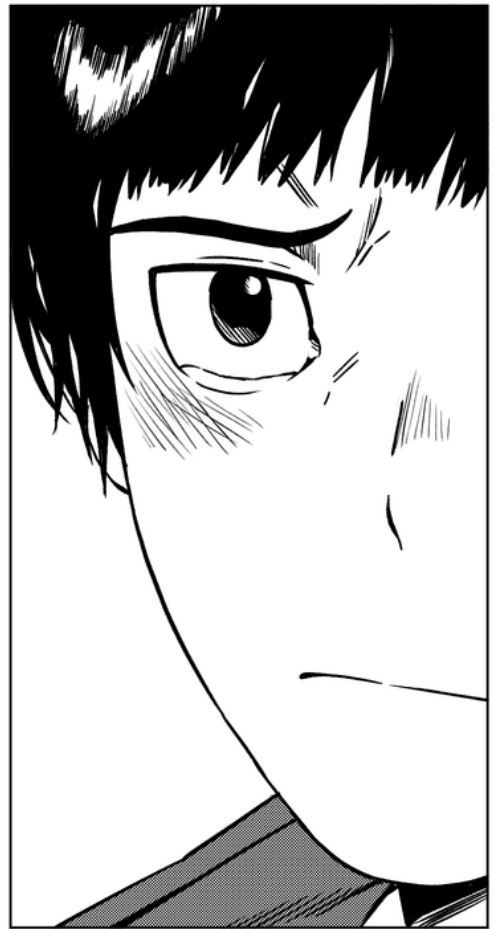




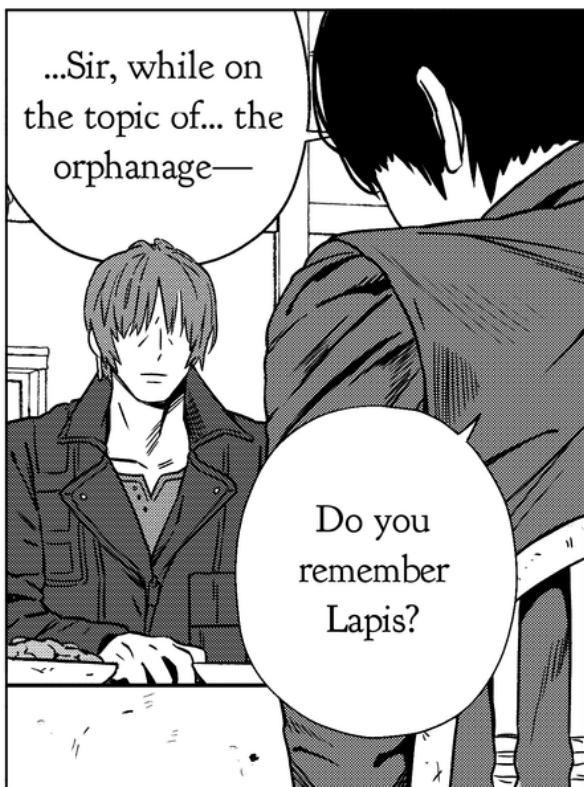
It's all
in the past
now.



Some things... are
better left behind
and forgotten.



GRIP



...Sir, while on
the topic of... the
orphanage—

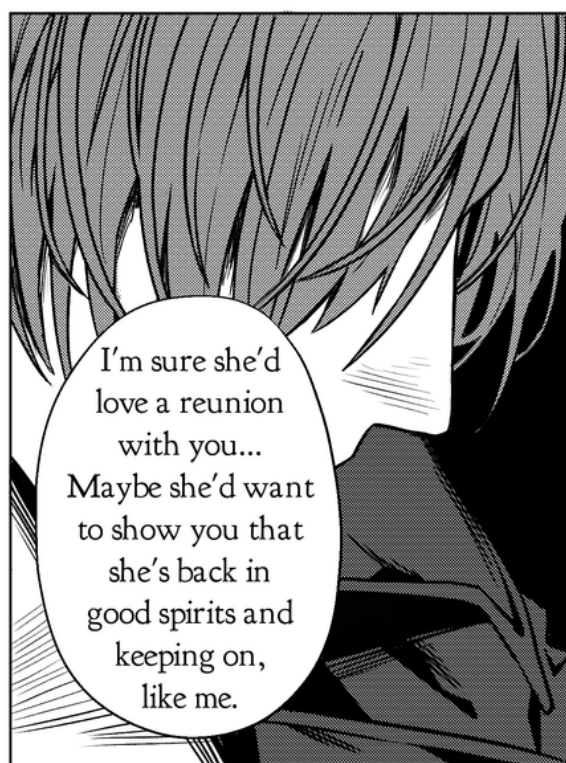
Do you
remember
Lapis?



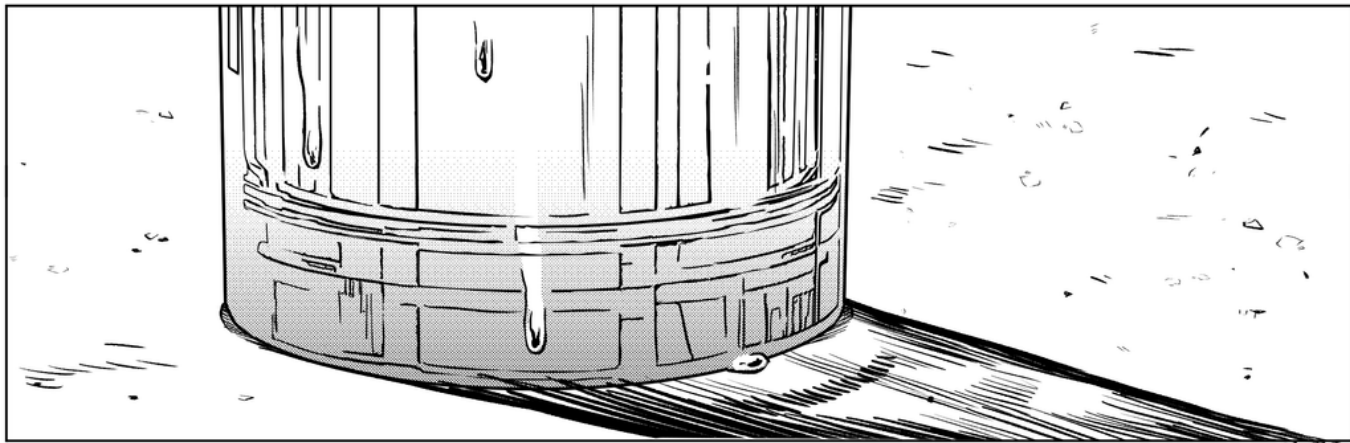
Lapis...



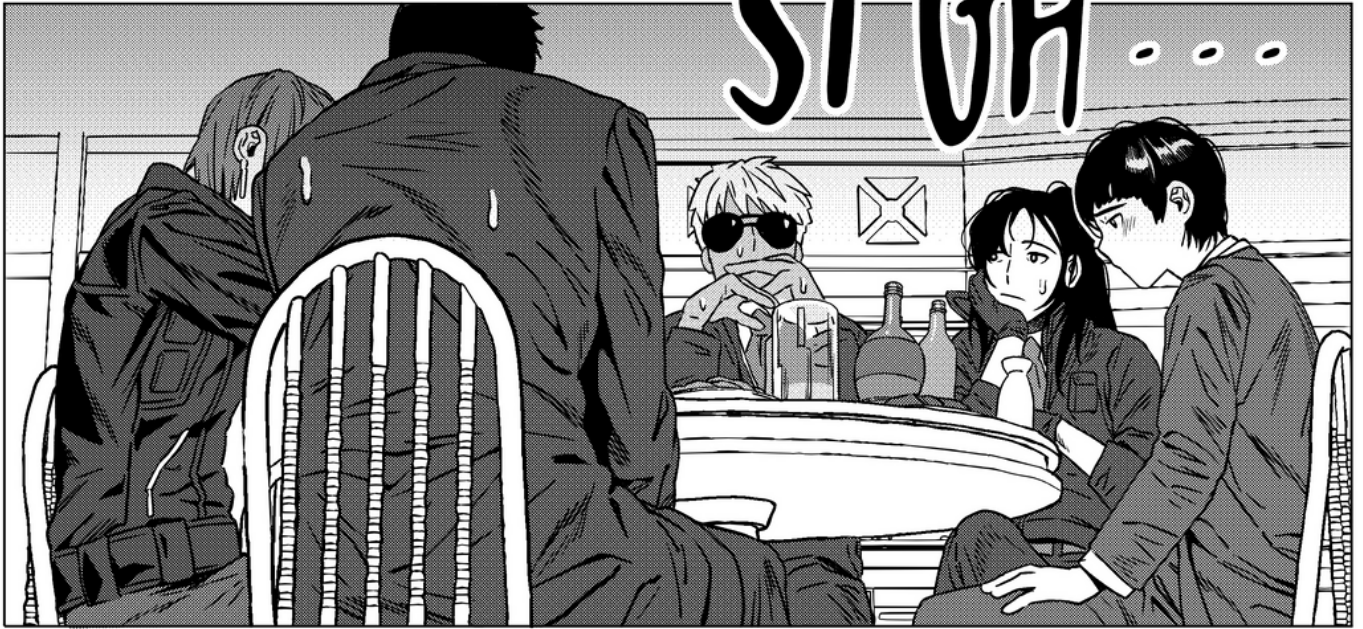
Sure,
I do.







SIGH...



Mmm... Ahem!
The mood here's
kinda tanked...

How's about
we go for one
more round?



Then order
another
grilled
drumstick
for me.



And I
aaaam gonna go
with this pear-
scented liquor.

Ah, I'd like
a glass of
hirezake...



Same
booze as
Nanseul.

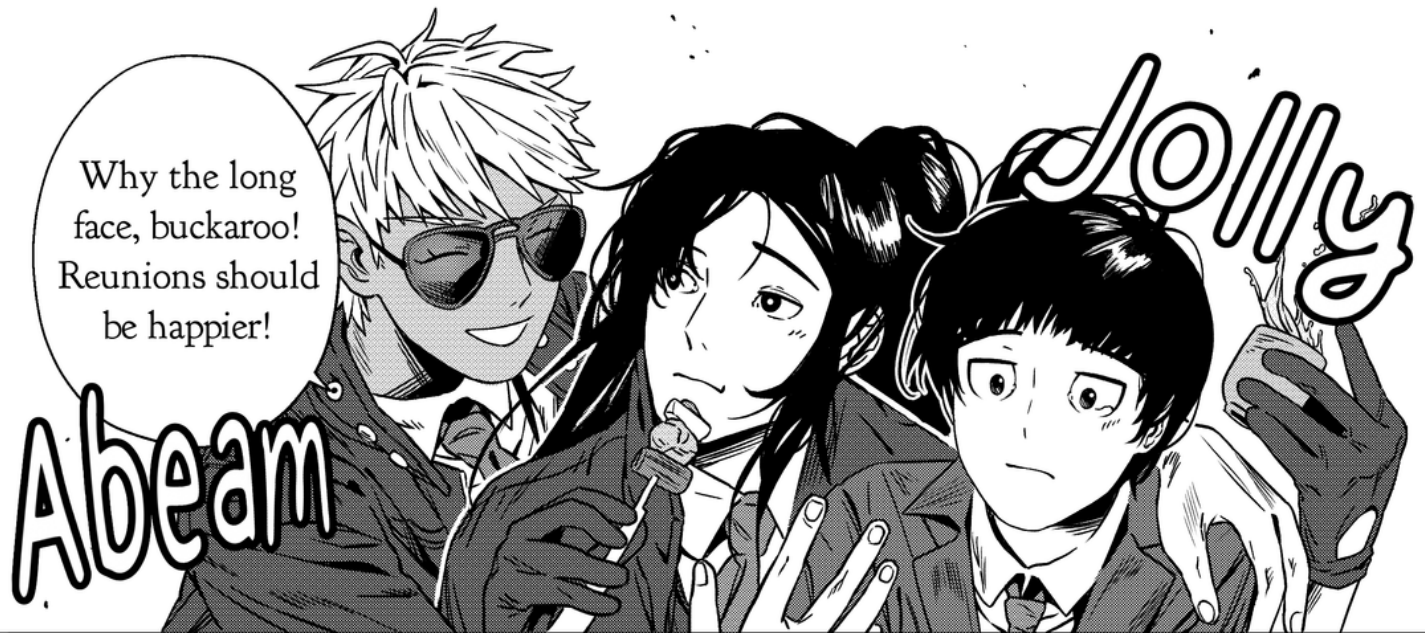


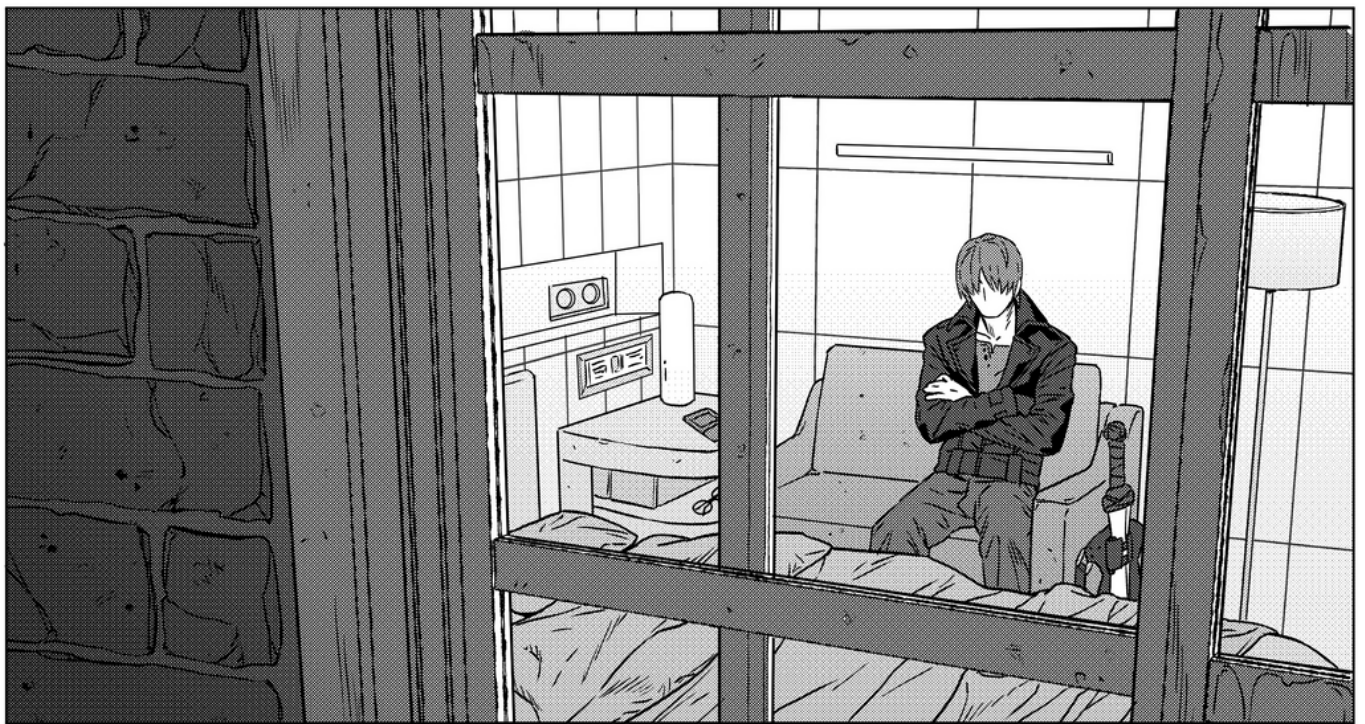
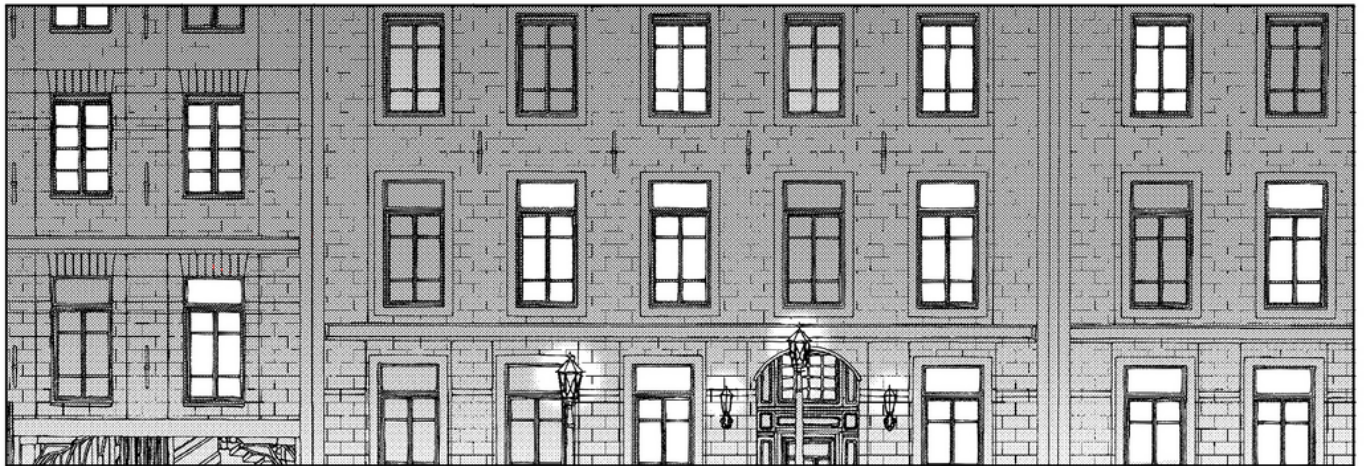
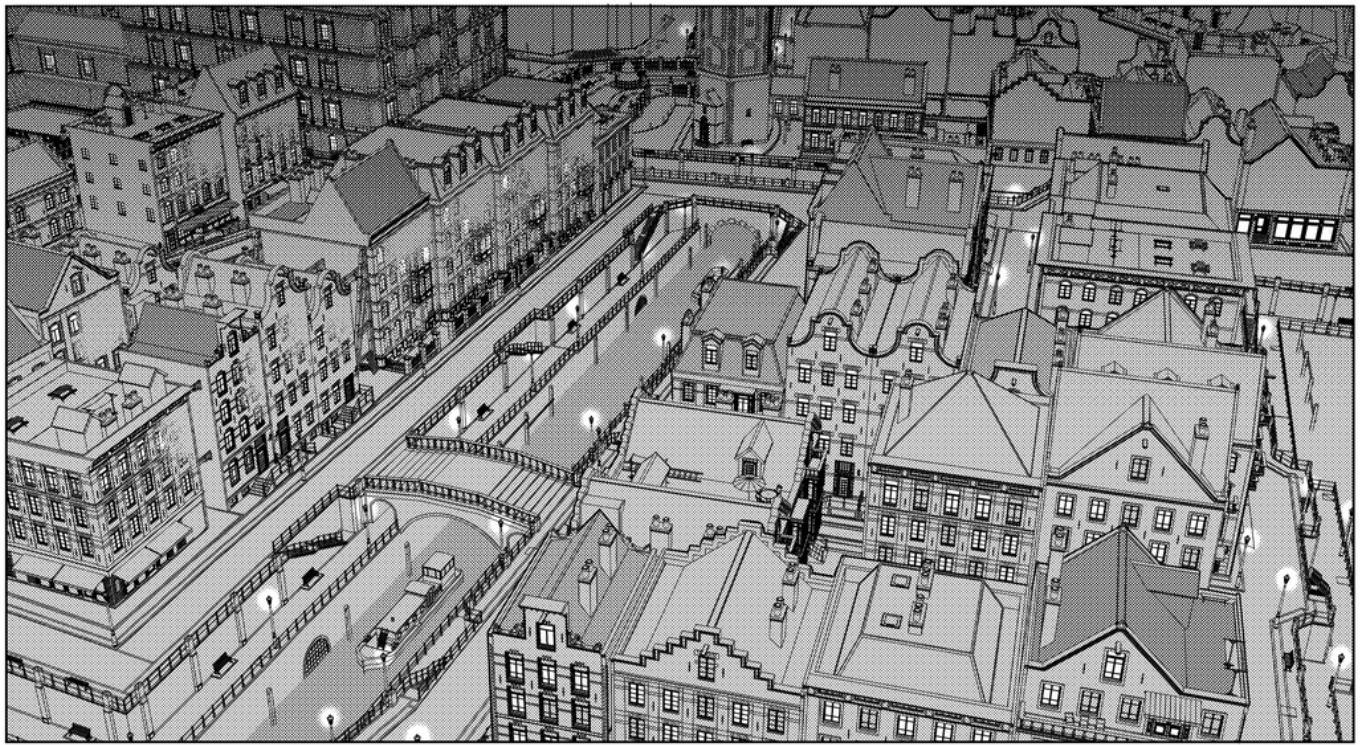
Ask 'em to
put a small fin
for mine.

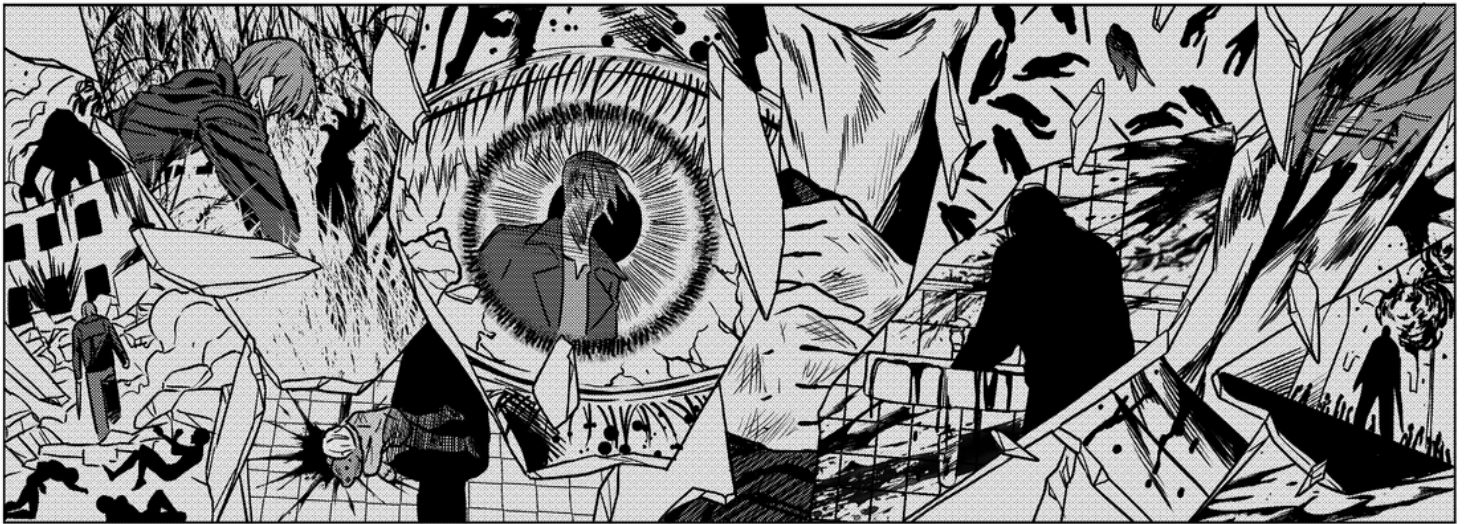
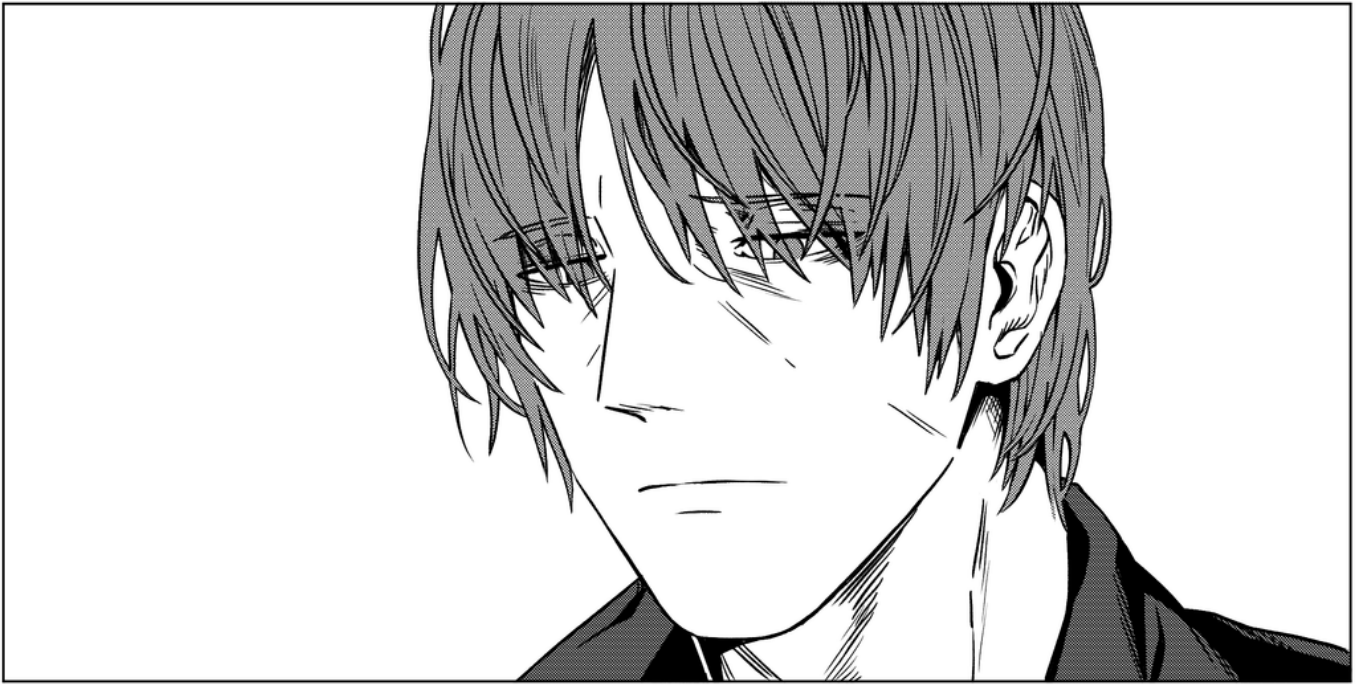
N' add
this
and
that.

Please don't
order more than
you can eat,
Ms. Rikako.

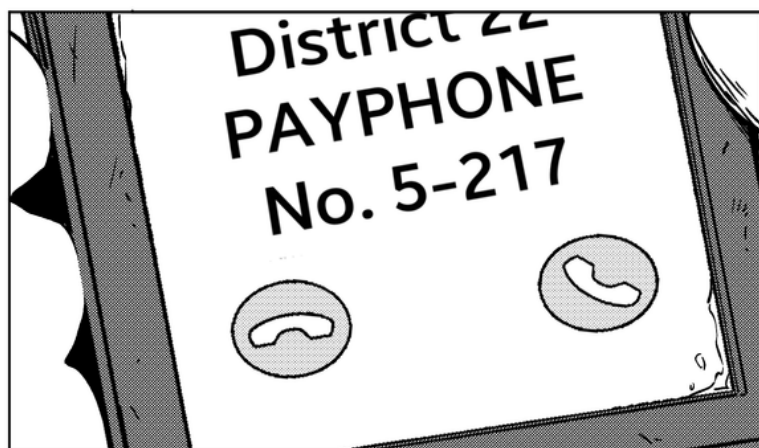








Vrrrrrr





*Sorry to
bother you so
late at night...
I... went out
to meet Lapis,
and...*

*The... I dunno
how to...
You see, I—*

*... What's
going on.*

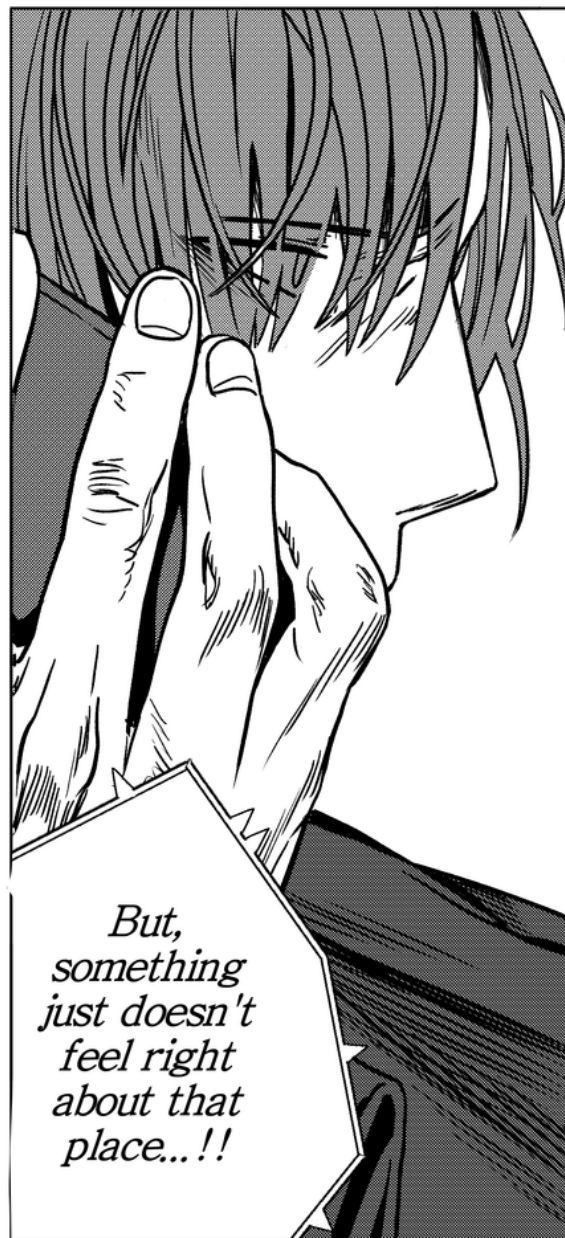


*Calm down,
and speak
slowly.*

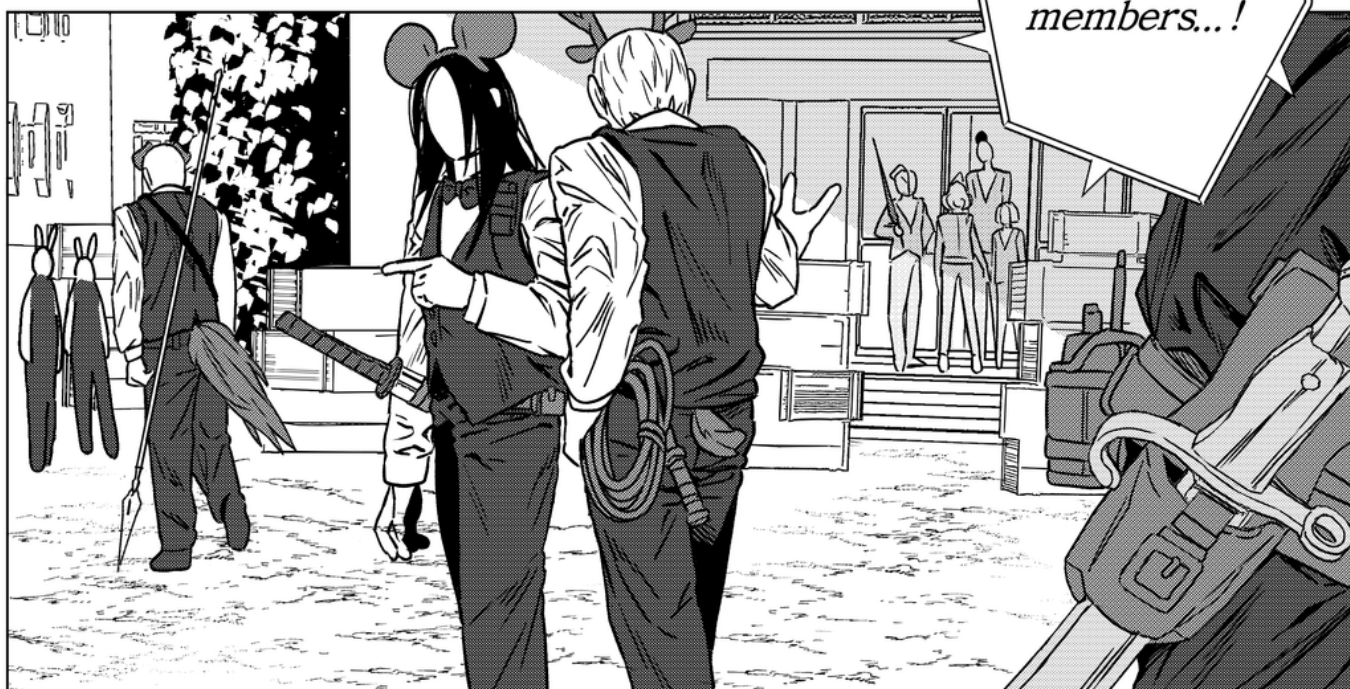
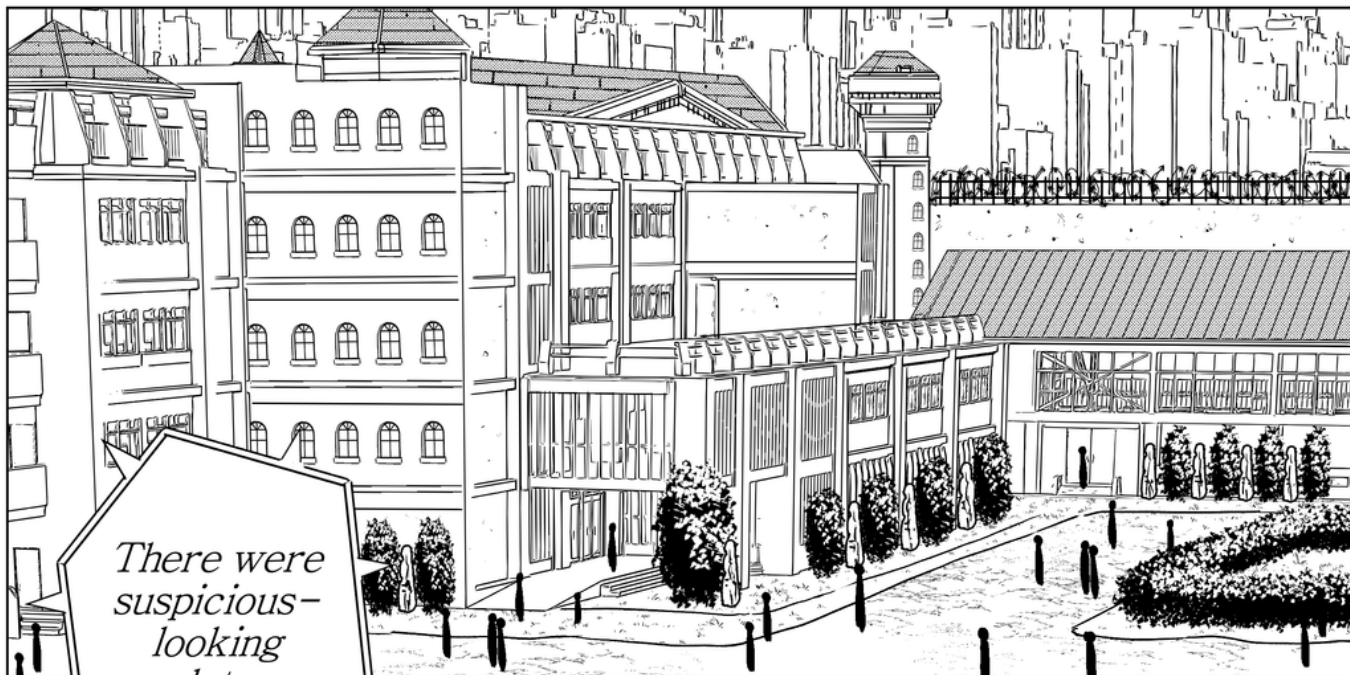


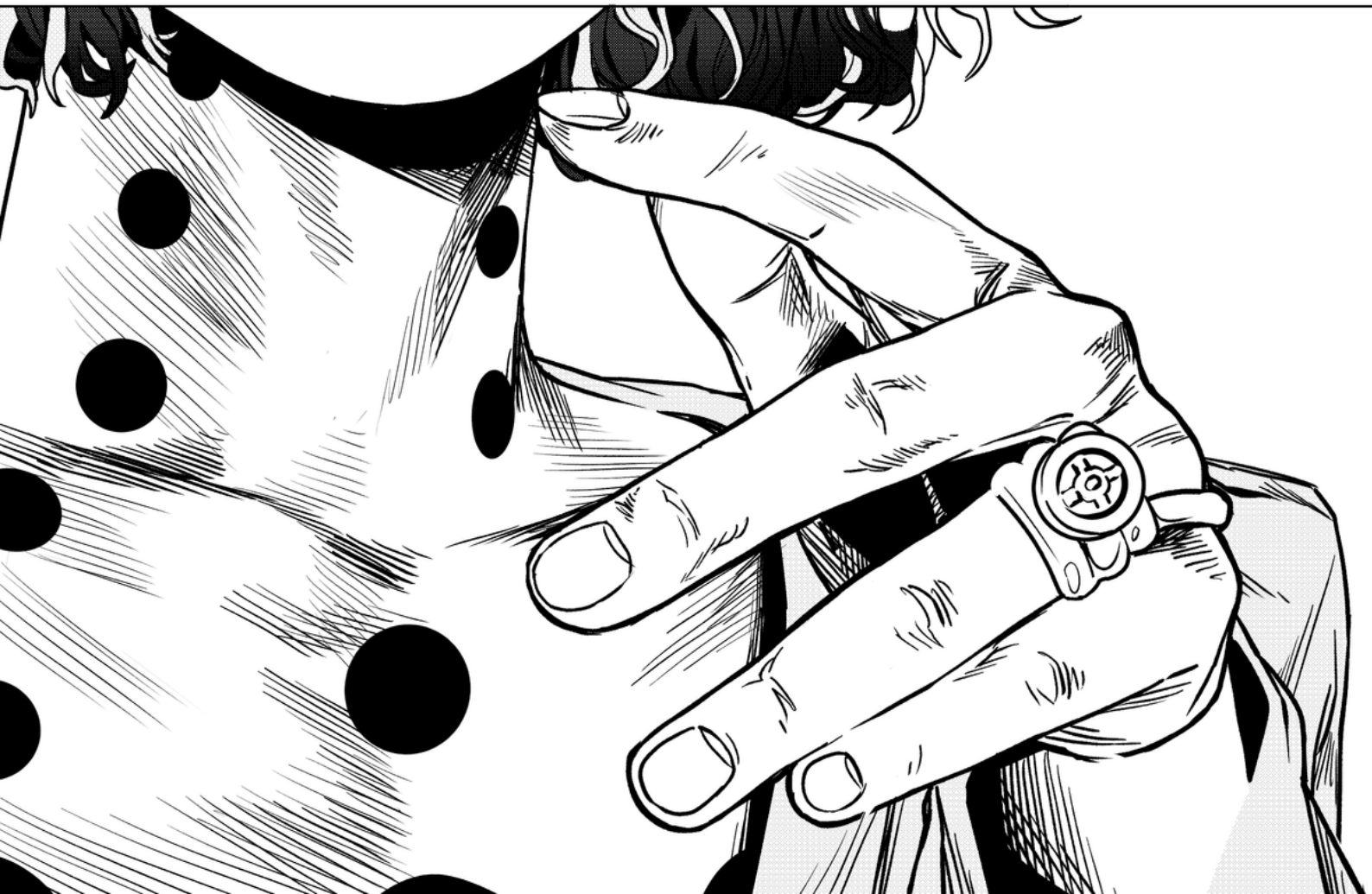
*...Okay,
um...*

*I had gone to
see Lapis...*



*But,
something
just doesn't
feel right
about that
place...!!*







There was also someone who seemed like an officer of the Ring.

I remember hearing about it at the Seven Association's orientation seminar...

I think that ring was supposed to represent a pretty high position in that Finger, too...



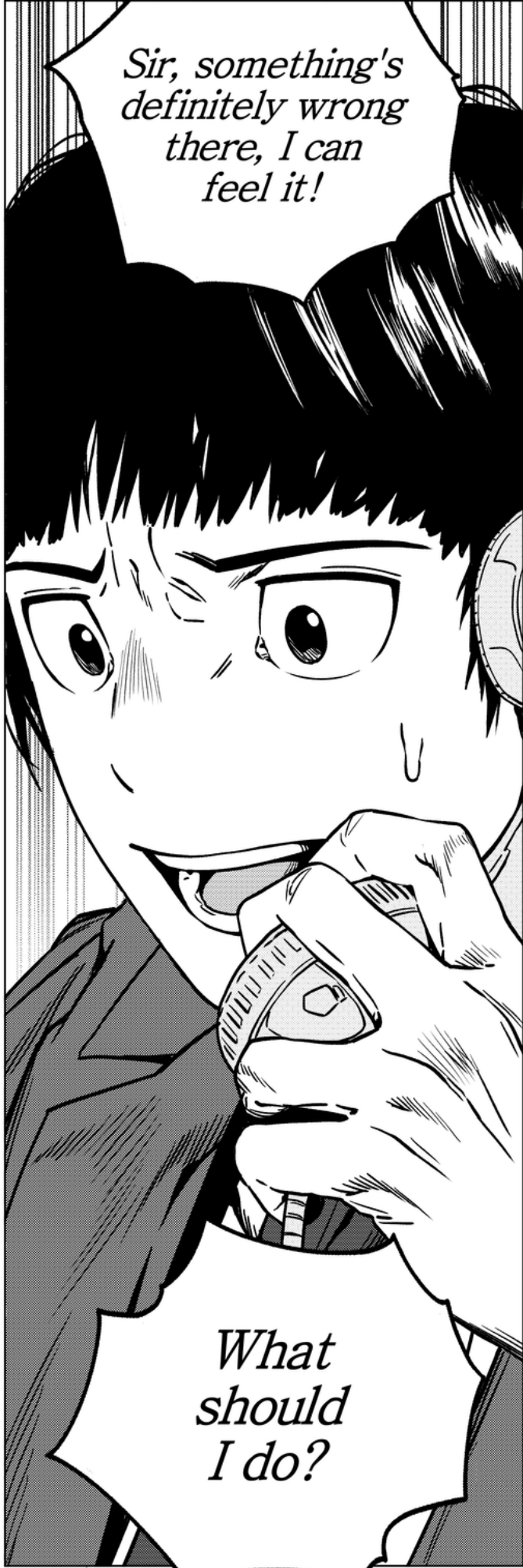
How many coils did the ring have?



About three... I think.



A Maestro of the Ring is over there?



*Sir, something's
definitely wrong
there, I can
feel it!*

*What
should
I do?*

